



# County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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WILLIAM T FUJIOKA  
Chief Executive Officer

September 20, 2007

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To: Supervisor Zev Yaroslavsky, Chairman  
Supervisor Gloria Molina  
Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke  
Supervisor Don Knabe,  
Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich

From: William T Fujioka  
Chief Executive Officer

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "W. T. Fujioka", is written over the printed name of the Chief Executive Officer.

## **REPORT ON THE PROGRESS IN STRENGTHENING THE TITLE IV-E WAIVER EVALUATION AND FUNDING FOR PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES USED FOR MEDICAL HEALTH ASSESSMENTS FOR CHILDREN IN FOSTER CARE**

On June 26, 2007, on motion of Supervisor Don Knabe, as amended by Supervisor Michael D. Antonovich, the Board directed the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) to report back every 30 days on the progress in strengthening the Title IV-E Waiver evaluation by planning, including data management and technology funding necessary to effectively measure the success of the Waiver and how to address the issue of the funding for the Public Health Nurses being used for medical health assessments of children in foster care.

### **Status of Title IV-E Waiver Evaluation**

As indicated in my August 13, 2007 status report, program staff from the Departments of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Probation are working with the Casey Family Programs Foundation (Casey) and the State's Title IV-E Program Evaluator to review the County's Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (CADP) Plan to ensure protocols and programs are developed to effectively measure the success of the Waiver. Specifically, on August 24, 2007, Casey hosted the second California Title IV-E Waiver Data Tracking and Evaluation Planning Meeting with representatives

from DCFS, Probation, Alameda County's Social Services Agency and Probation Department, and the California Department of Social Services (CDSS). The discussions primarily focused on the different evaluation needs of each County and the approach Casey will take in helping to meet those needs including providing fidelity assessments and Waiver Program support.

In addition, DCFS presented a prototype of its proposed Data Dashboard, which is designed to collect, track and report Waiver program outcome data. CDSS and Casey responded positively to the Dashboard and discussed expanding the prototype and the development of a Data Warehouse. DCFS' Bureau of Information Services (BIS) will work with the Title IV-E Management Team and Casey to incorporate format and specific data necessary to fully evaluate the effectiveness of the County's Title IV-E programs.

Additionally, on August 27, 2007, CDSS held its bimonthly State/Counties Evaluation meeting. The State's Title IV-E Program Evaluator, Dr. Charlie Ferguson, stated that although he was pleased with the progress on County observations, he needs to follow-up with the County's fiscal divisions to determine the best possible data source to use for tracking Waiver expenditures and assessment of program outcomes.

### **Public Health Nurses**

With regard to the issue of funding for the Public Health Nurses (PHN), the CEO, DCFS and the Department of Public Health (DPH) have met to discuss various options to maintain PHN staffing levels used for medical health assessments and consultations for children in foster care. As previously reported, the funding shortfall is primarily due to recent Board-approved salary increases for the County nursing items (including PHNs) and the California Department of Health Services' (CDHS) inability to increase Health Care Program for Children in Foster Care (HCPFC) funding. While CDHS funding has remained relatively constant, costs for these positions have steadily increased. DPH was able to use one-time savings in fiscal year (FY) 2006-07 to absorb the increased costs, however, those one-time savings are not available for FY 2007-08.

Therefore, in order to maintain the current PHN staffing levels used for medical assessments and consultations for children in foster care, we have included \$712,000 in net County cost (NCC) in the Supplemental Budget for your Board's consideration. This NCC will allow DPH the ability to draw down Federal matching funds necessary to maintain current PHN staffing levels.

Each Supervisor  
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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact me, or your staff may contact Brian Mahan at (213) 974-1318.

WTF:SRH:BY  
GP:BM:lbm

c:     Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors  
         County Counsel  
         Department of Children and Family Services  
         Department of Public Health

Title IV-E Waiver Eval Status 9-30-07.bm